



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/633,604

Atty. Docket No: 1234 US

Filed: 08/04/2003

Confirmation No: 6422

Group Art Unit: 3711

Applicant: Menaldo, et al.

Title: Steering wheel with thermoplastic composites

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed), is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail to the Honorable Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

Date: 11/20/2003

By: Lonnie R. Drayer
Lonnie R. Drayer, Reg. No. 30,375
Attorney for Applicants

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant submits this Statement in accordance with the duty of disclosure prior to the issuance of a First Office Action on the merits. A copy of each cited publication that is not a U.S. patent or patent application publication is filed herewith, together with a listing on Form PTO/SB/08 of all cited publications. In accordance with the OG Notice dated 05 August 2003 copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are not required for applications filed after 30 June 2003. Applicant respectfully solicits the Examiner's consideration of the cited references and entry thereof into the record of this application.

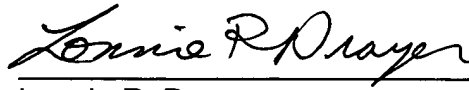
US 6,282,982 is discussed in paragraph [0003] of applicants' specification.

EP-A-261786, EP-A-542253 and WO 96/22327 are discussed in paragraph [0010] of applicants' specification.

EP-A-261786, EP-A-542253, WO96/22327, WO99/20681, US 4,948,840 and EP-A-1185582 are discussed in paragraph [0026] of applicants' specification.

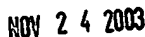
US 6,365,875, WO 99/13004, EP-A-1029771, and GB 2,333,741 are cited in the European Search Report that has been issued for the European Patent Application for which the present U.S. application claims priority. A copy of this European Search Report is attached to this disclosure statement.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lonnie R. Drayer", is written over a horizontal line.

Lonnie R. Drayer
Reg. No. 30,375
Attorney for Applicant

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| Application Number | 10/633,604 |
| Filing Date | 08/04/2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Lorenzo Menaldo |
| Art Unit | 3711 |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | 1234 US |

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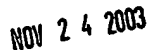
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ ~Number ⁴ ~Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | GB-2 333 741 A ✓ | 08/04/1999 | Jason Inc. | | |
| | | EP-0 261 786 - | 03/30/1998 | DuPont | | |
| | | EP-0 542 253 A2✓ | 05/19/1993 | Centro | | |
| | | EP-1 029 881 A1 ✓ | 08/23/2000 | Breed Automotiv | | |
| | | WO-96/22327 - | 07/25/1996 | Commer S.P.A. | | |
| | | WO-99/13004 | 03/19/1999 | Borggreve et al | | |

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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| First Named Inventor | Lorenzo Menaldo |
| Art Unit | 3711 |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | 1234 US |

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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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